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BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1945.



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BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. S. VENNER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. P. TABOR.

Councillors :

H. E. Brownett	T. N. Lavender
A. V. Cave (Chairman of the Health Committee)	Mrs. M. A. Masefield (Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee)
H. J. Farrow	G. A. D. McTurk
H. N. Fuller	T. H. Scrivener
R. Garstang	W. G. Stevens, J.P.
J. G. Handley	E. G. Stone
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S. A. Jewers	R. H. Willard
G. A. Joslin	S. A. Wilson
H. J. Kirby	S. J. Wingrave

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-Time) :

B. FRASER BEATSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Bacteriologists and Analysts :

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gidea Park, Essex.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

F. G. SPENCER, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector,
and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

P. T. SHELTON, M.R.San.I., A.A.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food
Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerks and Shorthand-Typists :

Miss R. E. M. BAILEY.

Mrs. E. M. HOWE.

BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1945.

“Austerity” continues to apply to the Reports of Medical Officers of Health, as directed by the Minister of Health in his Circular 28/46, dated 11th February, 1946.

I take this opportunity of thanking all Members of my Staff for their loyalty and devotion to duty throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Staff.

(a) An improvement was effected in the staffing of the Public Health Department by the appointment of Mr. P. T. Shelton, from Benfleet Urban District, as an Additional Sanitary Inspector in March, 1945.

(b) The services of the Medical Officer of Health remained at the reduced level of half-time.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) Routine examinations of milk and water samples were again carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories at Gidea Park.

(b) Other laboratory examinations were made at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The South Essex Waterworks Company is the supplier of water for most of the District, while a small area draws its supply from the Southend Waterworks Company.

Both supplies were satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Five samples of water taken from the mains of each Water Company were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year.

Reports on the South Essex Waterworks Company's water stated that it was clear and bright, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It was hard in character, but not to an abnormal degree, contained no excess of salinity or mineral constituents and was of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

The average hardness was :—

Total 26 ; Temporary 16.5 ; Permanent 9.5.

A less hard water is, however, desirable, and could be produced, though the cost might be high.

Reports on the Southend Waterworks Company's water stated that it was clear and bright, faintly alkaline and free from metals except for a negligible trace of iron. It was soft in character, contained no excess of saline or mineral matter and was of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

The average hardness was :—

Total 2.0 ; Temporary 2.0 ; Permanent Nil.

Twenty-two houses are supplied with main water by means of standpipes, representing a proportion of about 0.25 per cent. of the population.

Water Act, 1945.

In connection with this Act a conference with the representatives of the Statutory Water Companies and the County Council was held to ascertain what provisions could be made to give the outlying areas a mains' supply.

The matter is still under consideration.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

			Inspections.		Re-inspections.
Housing (Overcrowding Provisions)	..	..	5	..	3
Allocation of Council Houses	..	..	64	..	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	..	..	2	..	2
Sanitary Defects	..	..	253	..	687
Verminous or Dirty Houses	..	..	35	..	46
Infectious Diseases	..	..	23	..	18
Water Supply	..	..	16	..	15
Drains—					
Inspected	..	..	42	..	65
Tested	..	..	9	..	1
Sewers	..	..	4	..	—
Cesspools	..	..	22	..	10
Public Conveniences	..	..	1	..	—
Factories—					
Power	..	..	50	..	21
Non-power	..	..	6	..	4
Outworkers Premises	..	..	3	..	—
Shops Acts (Sanitary Provisions)	..	..	1	..	—
Bakehouses	..	..	29	..	14
Rat Infested Premises	..	..	123	..	76
Ponds, Ditches, Watercourses	..	..	16	..	9
Swine, Fowls, etc.	..	..	5	..	3
Accumulations of Refuse	..	..	9	..	2
Tips, etc.	..	..	1	..	—
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	155	..	9
Swimming Pools—Water Sampling	..	..	14	..	—
Public Shelters	..	..	11	..	—

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	2
Meat Shops	..	..	..	..	..	64
Horseflesh Shops	..	..	..	..	..	3
Provision and Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	242
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dairies and Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	5
Knackers Yards	..	..	..	..	..	38
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	162
Sampling—						
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	33
Water	..	..	..	..	..	17

Number of complaints received .. 361

Cesspools.

While the work of emptying cesspools in the District is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department, frequent complaints from residents are received in the Public Health Department regarding alleged nuisances due to overflowing cesspools. It would appear that the Engineer and Surveyor has not sufficient means at his disposal to enable him to deal often enough with the many cesspools which exist.

In the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937 the following paragraph appears :—

“ As was pointed out in my Report for 1936, the good and ample water supply which it is desirable to provide for every dwelling requires proper means for its subsequent disposal. Otherwise the already serious nuisance from overflowing cesspools will become overwhelming.

From this it becomes evident that the Council cannot proceed too fast in providing sewerage throughout the District.”

In September, 1945, the attention of the Health Committee was drawn to the danger to public health caused by the overflowing of cesspools.

HOUSING.

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	253
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	687
2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	125
3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :— Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	106
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :— (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— (a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :— (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— (a) By Owners	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk Sampling.

Accredited Producers—

Number of samples taken .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Number of samples satisfactory .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	15

All samples submitted to Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests.

Pasteurised Milk—

Number of samples taken .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Number of samples satisfactory .. .. .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
One sample failed to pass the Phosphatase Test.						

Undesignated Milk—

Number of samples taken .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..
Number of samples satisfactory .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of inspections .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..
Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned :—				
Tons. Cwt. Qrs. Lbs.				
2 .. 11 .. 2 .. 25½				

Knackers Yards.

Number of premises .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..
Number of inspections .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever again showed a marked fall in incidence from 1944.

Diphtheria figures were less good than the previous year, when a low record was established.

Measles was more prevalent and Whooping Cough much less so.

On the whole Notifiable Diseases were well under control.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

The following are the figures of attendances :—

Number of children who received their second injection .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	15 }	237	immunisation completed.
Number of children who received both injections .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	222 }		
Number of children who received their first injection .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..		23	
Number of children who received a "boosting" injection .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..		69	
Total number of children treated .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..		329	
Total number of injections given .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..		551	

The immunising agent used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, obtained free of charge from the Emergency Laboratory.

It was issued free on demand from the Department to any local general practitioner.

Scabies.

Treatment of cases of Scabies continued to be carried out at Oakbank until 3rd October, 1945, when, in company with the Foot Clinic, a move was made to new premises at Doddington Road Depot.

Figures of attendances are as follows :—

<i>Number of cases treated</i> —				
Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
4	20	33	31	88

Two women, six boys and eight girls received two treatments, making actual number of treatments :—

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
4	22	39	39	104

MISCELLANEOUS.

Foot Clinic.

Good work continued to be done at this Clinic and attendances were so satisfactory that one additional session on Saturday mornings was added to the appointed times from 19th November, 1945.

The scale of fees was amended in June, 1945, to read as follows :—

Adults.		First Attendance.	Subsequent Attendances.
Both feet ..	..	3/-	2/-
One foot ..	..	2/-	1/6
Children suffering from Plantar Warts ..		..	1/- per attendance.
Old Age Pensioners ..	..	..	6d. per attendance.

Records of attendance at this Clinic are kept in four-weekly periods. The following figures, therefore, show the number of persons treated between 11th December, 1944, 8th December, 1945 :—

Adults.	New Patients.		Old Age Pensioners.	Attendances by—		Total Attend- ances.
	M. F.	M. F.		New Patients.	Old Patients.	
62	243	7	24	35	73	2,774

Public Swimming Pool.

During the summer season five samples of water were taken and submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination.

On each occasion the water was reported to be of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Private Swimming Pools at Schools.

Nine samples of water were taken from three schools. One sample was found to be unsatisfactory, while two other samples were of doubtful quality.

Notification was accordingly sent to the authorities concerned.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

